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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/842,019	SUSNOW ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ricardo Pizarro	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment received on 10/31/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Examiner's statement of reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

For claim 1, the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest a Link Packet Scheduler for each virtual lane at a given port, comprising a N-bit counter to accumulate free credits when a data packet is removed from a receive buffer or when a link packet is received whose FCTBS field differs from actual blocks received at the given port; a first comparator and a programmable credit threshold; a second comparator and a programmable utilization threshold; and a logic device arranged to track a current link state of [a corresponding port to schedule for transmission of the link packet via a physical link.

For claims 8, 9 and 12 the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest a data network, comprising: a host system having a host-fabric adapter, at least one remote system; a switch fabric and one or more communication ports provided in the host-fabric adapter of and a flow control mechanism utilized to prevent loss of data, the flow control mechanism including a N-bit counter to accumulate free credits relinquished or when a link packet is received whose Flow Control Total Bytes Sent (FCTBS) field differs from actual blocks received (ABR) at a given port, a first comparator and a programmable credit threshold, a second comparator and a programmable utilization threshold, and a logic device arranged to track a current link state of a corresponding port to schedule for the transmission of the link packet, via the physical link.

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For claim 19 the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest a method of flow control of a link packet in a host-fabric adapter installed in a data network, comprising determining when a Link State Machine transitions into one of a LinkInitialize state, a LinkArm state and a LinkActive state, or when a configuration strap for enabling loopback operation changes state, if the Link State Machine transitions into one of the LinkInitialize state, the LinkArm state and a LinkActive state then scheduling transmission of a link packet for all supported virtual lanes VLs on a given port, if the Link State Machine does not transition into one of the LinkInitialize state, the LinkArm state and a LinkActive state, then determining whether a Link Packet Watchdog Timer per virtual lane VL has expired, and wherein if the receive buffer utilization exceeds the programmable utilization threshold, prohibiting transmission of the link packet for that virtual lane VL and if the receive buffer utilization does not exceed the programmable utilization threshold, determining whether free credits accumulated exceeds a programmable credit threshold;

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Ricardo Pizarro** whose telephone number is (571) 272-

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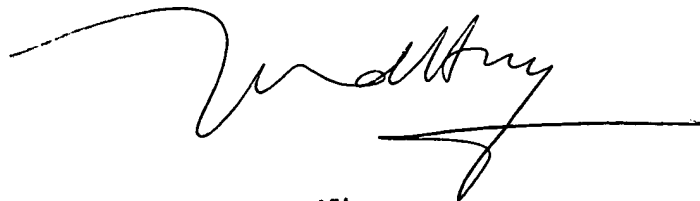
3077. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The fax number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Huy Vu** can be reached on (571) 272-3155.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10-May-06

Ricardo Pizarro



HUY D. VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600